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Monday, September 19, 1988

(E0241)

CHINA: US POSITION ON CHINESE MISSILE SALES

Q: What is our position on Chinese ballistic missile sales following Secretary Carlucci's visit to China?

R: -- Secretary Carlucci had very good discussions with senior Chinese leaders on this issue during his recent trip to China. As Secretary Carlucci said during his visit, the Chinese leaders described their arms sales policies and elaborated on them in some detail. ~~They said that they have sold missiles to only one country, Saudi Arabia.~~ They stressed that sales must be for self-defense and contribute to regional peace and stability. The Chinese also emphasized that their arms sales policy is and will remain a responsible one. Secretary Carlucci said that he was fully satisfied with his discussions and we share his assessment of them.

-- Ballistic missile proliferation is an issue of world-wide concern and not an issue with regard to a single country. The US and many other nations are concerned with the proliferation of ballistic missiles especially to volatile regions such as the the Middle East and South Asia. We welcome all effective international measures to curb the proliferation of this type of destabilizing weapons system.

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